UNITED
NATIONS

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Secretariat

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INFORMATION CIRCULAR

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for General Services

Subject: FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
"BANNING OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS" STAMPS AND DEFINITIVE STAMPS

1. The United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue the fourth set of commemorative stamps for 1991 on Wednesday, 11 September 1991. The set of six stamps, illustrated below, champions the United Nations efforts to eliminate completely chemical weapons. The late Oscar Asboth, Austria, designed the 30c, F.s. 0,80 and S 5 stamps; Michel Granger, France, designed the 90c, F.s. 1,40 and S 10 stamps. The stamps were printed in sheets of 50 by Heraclio Fournier, S.A., Spain, using an offset lithography process. It should be recalled that this set of stamps had been scheduled for release on 1 February. However, as a result of inconsistencies in printing quality, the set was reprinted in its entirety.

Denominations	30 cents	800 000
	90 cents	700 000
and	F.s. 0,80	700 000
	F.s. 1,40	700 000
quantities:	S 5	900 000
	S 10	900 000

Size: 41 mm x 26 mm

Perforation: 13 3/4

(United States equivalents - F.s. 0,80: 57 cents; F.s. 1,40: 99 cents; S 5: 44 cents; S 10: 87 cents - subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

2. The sheets of 50 stamps will be vertical.

3. Two definitive stamps will also be issued on 11 September 1991, in denominations of 30c and 50c. The 30c stamp, from a photograph by Unmesh, shows the United Nations flag fluttering in the breeze. It was adapted as a stamp by Rocco J. Callari. Both are United Nations staff members. The stamp was printed in offset lithography by Joh. Enschede en Zonen, Netherlands. The 50c stamp reproduces "The Golden Rule" by Norman Rockwell, United States of America, which depicts people of different nationalities standing together, with the words "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" inscribed on it. The mosaic was a gift from the United States to the United Nations on the occasion of its fortieth anniversary. The work was adapted as a stamp by Robert J. Stein, a United Nations staff member, from a photograph taken by Andrea Brizzi, Italy. The stamp was printed in Switzerland by Helio Courvoisier, S.A.

Denomination	Initial quantities	Size	Perforation
30 cents	2 000 000	36 mm x 26.1 mm	13 1/4 x 13 3/4
50 cents	2 000 000	28.6 mm x 39.2 mm	11 3/4

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4. The 30c sheet is vertical, while the 50c sheet is horizontal.

5. Both sheets will have 50 stamps.

6. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachet ONLY.

7. Members of delegations and the staff may obtain the new stamps and first-day cancellations on Wednesday, 11 September, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building: 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.;

(b) The counter at the north end of the Secretariat lobby from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.